

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLLOWING ICA/PANAMA MESSAGE RETRANSMITTED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

UNCLAS 2859

MEDIA REACTION

1. PANAMA CITY--THREE OF FOUR MORNINGS APRIL 26 FRONT PAGE
STATEMENT BY FONMIN THAT CANAL TREATIES ACCOMPLISH MAIN GOALS
OF PANAMA AND THAT AMENDMENTS AND RESERVATIONS DO NOT CHANGE
BASIC TREATIES. ACCORDING TO STAR AND HERALD, FONMIN COMMUNIQUE
SAID TREATIES "DO NOT BLEMISH PANAMA'S NATIONAL DIGNITY; THE
OBJECTIVES OF THE TREATY HAVE NOT BEEN DISTORTED OR CHANGED;
NOTHING IN THEM IMPEDES PANAMA'S EFFECTIVE EXERCISE OF ITS
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SOVEREIGNTY OVER ALL ITS TERRITORY; AND THE MAIN NATIONAL
OBJECTIVES HAVE BEEN ACHIEVED."

2. STAR AND HERALD AND ESTRELLA CARRY AP STORY ON RETURNING
EXILES. APRIL 25 AFTERNOONER LA REPUBLICA FRONT PAGES LOCAL
STORY AND PHOTO. LA REPUBLICA, STAR AND HERALD AND ESTRELLA
ALSO CARRY ACCOUNTS OF LABOR MINISTER AHUMADA'S

STATEMENTS THAT RETURNING EXILES WILL NOT BE PROSECUTED, BUT WILL BE FREE TO EXERCISE CIVIL RIGHTS. AHUMADA ALSO COMMENTED ON REINSTITUTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES, BUT SAID THEY WOULD NOT HAVE TIME TO ORGANIZE FOR AUGUST GENERAL REPRESENTATIVE ELECTIONS.

3. EXILES' RETURN AND INCREASED ACTIVITY OF POLITICAL GROUPS STIMULATES COMMENTARY IN MATUTION, WHOSE EDIT WELCOMES EXILES HOME: "IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE THAT THEIR RE-ENTRY INTO CIVIC-POLITICAL ACTIVITIES...TOOK PLACE WITHIN THE NORMS OF THE CALM EXERCISE OF THEIR RIGHTS, WITHOUT IN ANY MOMENT ANY OF THEM TRYING TO EXCEED THE LIMITS OF WHAT THEY CAN DO, RESPECTING THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS AND THE ESTABLISHED CONSTITUTIONAL...ORDER."

4. EXILE'S RETURN IS NOTED, SAYS MATUTINO, "WITH THE HOPE THAT THEY WILL OVERCOME OLD DIFFERENCES AND JOIN THE PROCESS OF RENOVATION AND REINFORCEMENT OF THE FATHERLAND WHICH IS EVERYONE', WHICH NEVER STOPPED BEING THEIRS AND WHICH TODAY REJOICES FOR THE RETURN OF THOSE WHO ARE READY TO TAKE UP THIS COMMON TASK, IN WHICH DIFFERENCES, EXCEPTIONS AND GRUDGES DO NOT FIT."

5. GOP OWNED RADIO LIBERTAD COMMENTARY REPRINTED IN MATUTIONO SHARPLY CRITICIZES POLITICAL PARTIES, HOWEVER, ACCUSING "DURING THE ENTIRE PERIOD OF NEGOTIATIONS AND ESPECIALLY SINCE THE TREATY SIGNING IN WASHINGTON, THEY HAVE DEDICATED 24 HOURS A DAY TO FIGHT AGAINST THE REVOLUTION, MAKING USE OF EXACTLY UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT FREEDOM AND THOSE GUARANTEES THAT THEY INSISTED DID NOT EXIST IN PANAMA. NOW THEY ARE SLANDERING THE TORRIJOS-CARTER TREATIES, APPROVED BY THE U.S. SENATE IN A DAY ALL THE WORLD RECOGNIZED AS A NET VICTORY FOR OUR PEOPLE AGAINST THE COLONIALIST DEATH RATTLE OF IMPERIALISM.

6. PRES. CARTER VISIT TO PANAMA IS CONSIDERED SURE THING BY RICARDO LINCE IN MATUTINO COLUMN: "FOR THE FIRST HALF OF MAY, TENTATIVELY THE 12TH, HAS BEEN SET THE ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER IN PANAMA TO ACCOMPLISH THE PROCEDURES OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES, AN ACT WHICH WILL BE, FROM ALL VIEWPOINTS, ANOTHER DATE WHICH WILL BELONG TO HISTORY, NOT ONLY OF OUR NATION BUT OF ALL AMERICA AND THE WORLD." LINCE ALSO SAYS LEADERS OF OTHER LATIN NATIONS ARE EXPECTED FOR CEREMONY, AS WELL AS SECY. GEN. OF OAS. ITEM UNQUOTE GONZALEZ

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